

# Senator Richard Lugar Celebrates the YES Program

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## **(Transcription)**

“In 2002, former Senator Ted Kennedy, of Massachusetts, and I felt it was very important, in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy in the United States, to get to know students in Muslim countries and for them to know us, so we worked with the State Department and others to institute this program. This is the tenth anniversary of that; the graduating class has grown from roughly 400 to well over 900 this year. We have had some very exciting students and experiences which we all celebrate. High school students are quick learners, they are well able to adapt to new conditions, and they are our future leaders. We are most hopeful that this experience will be a part of this leadership background. I have no doubt having this visit with six students who attended Indiana high schools that these students are destined to take on many more leadership opportunities, and eventually in their homelands will offer significant service to people. This will be a celebration of the YES program.”